

While Kim is a native of Florida, she grew up in my district in Hartsville, Tennessee. For most of her career with me, she has assisted her neighbors and my constituents with problems they were having with the federal government. One of the most rewarding things I can do as a Member of Congress is help folks at home cut through government red tape, but I wouldn't be able to do that without people like Kim.

As my assistant communications director, Kim has fostered relationships with local media and helped me to stay in touch with Tennessee residents. She is a strong writer and chose to share her expertise by spending her free time teaching journalism and public relations at Middle Tennessee State University, our shared alma mater. Along with providing my office with hardworking interns, some of whom are now full-time members of my staff, Kim's talents and work with the university have earned her a spot on the College of Mass Communication's Wall of Fame.

Kim will be missed dearly, especially by those who worked closest with her in my district offices and benefited daily from her acerbic wit and sense of humor. My Murfreesboro district office is like a family. The current staff has worked together for 11 years, and they have a bond that makes them seem at times to be more like siblings than coworkers. We will be sad to see her go, but we know she has plenty to keep her busy—a new career to undertake, jewelry to make, dogs to spoil, and future trips to the beach with her husband, Jeff.

Kim, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. I wish you all the best in your next endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$2,000,000 is necessary to allow completion of the final development stage prior to production. These funds will enable Mack Trucks and Volvo Powertrain, N.A. to finish building a prototype M915 truck with hybrid powertrain and be prepared to compete for an M-915 by the Army. The Army is attempting to extend the service life of heavy trucks, like the M-915, through engineering change programs. This funding supports the Committee directive to the Army to extend their effort for procuring heavy trucks with alternative propulsion systems with parallel electric capability.

ANNIVERSARY OF FOCUS ON RENEWAL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe the 40th anniversary of Focus On Re-

newal, a community service organization serving the municipalities of Stowe Township and McKees Rocks in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

Forty years ago, Father Don Fisher and Sister Paulette Honeygosky laid the foundation for Focus On Renewal. Together, they envisioned an organization made up of individuals who believed that every person must be treated with dignity.

In 1975, Father Regis Ryan assumed the leadership at Focus On Renewal. He was amazed by all the service activities that had been initiated during the first six years of Focus On Renewal. For instance, a pediatric health center had opened in the basement of a storefront at 610 Chartiers Avenue. Within that small facility, lunch was served five days a week; a dental hygienist provided preventive oral care; books were acquired and distributed as a rudimentary library was forming; crisis care needs were addressed on a daily basis; community meetings were called; and one simple, donated van was used to transport elderly folks to medical appointments.

Initially, Father Ryan believed he would remain only a few years, but everyone is glad that didn't happen. Instead, he has become known in the Sto-Rox community as a loving, generous and respectful leader.

What started as a small storefront serving the social service and health needs of the community has become a major non-profit agency. Today, Focus On Renewal operates more than a dozen programs from various sites throughout Allegheny County, providing comprehensive health services, early childhood and adult education programs, transportation services, a library, an arts center, a credit union, employment and training classes, and a broad range of social services.

Countless members of staff, boards, administration and volunteers have spent the last 40 years creating and fostering the community of care into which Focus On Renewal has evolved. Beyond the many human services, which have touched thousands of lives, Focus On Renewal has offered employment to hundreds of men and women, some of whom have served for more than 30 years.

Focus On Renewal is like the weaving of a great patchwork quilt, bits and pieces old and new, held together with common threads, worked by many hands, bordered with love, and blanketing the community with its warmth.

I want to thank Father Ryan and everyone at Focus On Renewal for the important services they have provided the Sto-Rox community over the last 40 years and wish them well as they continue to serve this community in the same exemplary fashion in the coming years.

COMMENDING HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA AND THE 95 WORLD WAR II VETERANS TRAVELING TO THE WWII MEMORIAL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to com-

mend the Honor Flight South Alabama and the 95 World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing to Washington, D.C. this week.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Monroe, Covington, and Escambia counties in Alabama to see their national memorial.

Over six decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you" yet, for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, this week's journey of 95 heroes from south Alabama is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank them—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II—for they collectively—and literally—saved the world. They personify the very best America has to offer, and I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to their selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

I salute each of the 95 veterans who made the trip this week. May we never forget their valiant deeds and tremendous sacrifices.

James Abbot Jr., John Abbott, Lewis Abronski, Stanley Armit, Eugene Baril, Herbert Baskin, Joseph Bell Jr., William Bittner, John Blackmon, Elizabeth Blatchford, Edward Borman, Henry Brackin, James Bryars, John Busbee, Charles Byrd, Donald Carmichael, Charles Carpenter, Hurschel Chambers Jr. and David Chichester.

George Coaker, Robert Constatine Jr., Marvin Courtney, James Coward, Thomas Culpepper, John Douglas, George Edgar, Edwin Fore Jr., Howard Foshee, Glenn Frazier, Lloyd Fremaux, Roland Fry, Richard Gile, Douglas Gordon, Henry Hannett, Joseph Harbuck Jr., James Helland, Jennings Hill and Cecil Hobbs.

William Hobbs Jr., Jean Hooker, Elsie Hovell, Edward Hrsin, John Hudson, Christopher Hume Jr., Ray Huning, Meldon Hurlbert, Clifford James, James Johnson, George Jones, John Kassab, Frank Keeler Jr., Paul Liles, Horace Luckey, Thomas Martin, Robert Mauer and Floyd McBride.

Joseph McCoy, Cecil McLain, Robert Meador, James Mills, John Moreland Jr., Granvil Neel, James Nickerson, Melvin O'Barr, Lee Otts, Billy Owen, Wilbern Payne, Sidney Phillips Jr., James Philpot, Edward Plouse, Donald Pruett, Iona Quinley, John Rabon, Edward Reagan and John Reiter.

Leon Resmondo, Gary Roberts, Claude Robinson, Hans Schneider, Charles Skinner, Randolph Smith, Raymond Smith, Robert Smith, Arnold Smith, John Stauffer, Charles Strawser, William Stuckey, Ezra Trice, Julius Turner, James White, John Jephtha White-Spunner, Ezell Williams, Chelton Wilson and Janet Woods,

CONGRATULATING THE YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS-NORTH CENTRAL CAMPUS ON THEIR 2009 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the YES Prep Public Schools–North Central Campus in our district for their dedication to academic excellence that has earned them the honored distinction of being a Blue Ribbon School in 2009.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools, and I am proud of YES Prep Public Schools–North Central Campus for all of its hard work towards and dedication to achieving the high academic standards that have earned them this award. The Blue Ribbon Award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student achievement and helped close achievement gaps among minority and disadvantaged students. This year 314 schools earned this coveted award.

YES Prep Public Schools–North Central Campus is a school that strives to increase the number of low-income Houstonians who graduate from a four-year college prepared to compete in the global marketplace and committed to improving disadvantaged communities. Under the supervision of Principal Mr. Mark DiBella, YES also works to develop students who are active in the community. YES stands for Youth Engaged in Service and students dedicate one Saturday each month to community service projects. YES also requires that students participate in longer school days, college research trips, summer school and summer opportunities—80 percent of YES' student base is comprised of economically disadvantaged individuals, and their motto is 'to do whatever it takes' to improve themselves and their horizons through educational resources provided through the school. YES Prep Public Schools–North Central Campus serves as an example that through hard work much can be achieved.

They are an inspiration for all schools in the Houston area, and I congratulate the administration, teachers, parents, and students at YES Prep Public Schools–North Central Campus on this great accomplishment.

HONORABLE RECOGNITION OF COACH ROCKY RAWLS, BRONTE, TEXAS 2009 NATIONAL COACHES APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Coaches Appreciation Week and to acknowledge the accomplishments and dedication of one coach in particular: Coach Rocky Rawls of Bronte, Texas.

Coach Rawls has been coaching in Bronte, Texas for the past 26 years. After growing up in Dimmitt, Texas and playing basketball for the late Kenneth Cleveland, Coach Rawls grew to love the game of basketball and decided to make it his career. He graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1978. He then went to Howard Junior College in Big Spring, Texas to play basketball for the Hawks. After 2 years in Big Spring, Coach Rawls left for Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas to finish out his college education, and, of course, to play ball. He graduated from Southwestern University in May of 1983. Just months after his graduation from college the superintendent of Bronte High School gave Rocky a call and offered him a position as head basketball coach. The rest, as they say, is history.

This past season Coach Rawls accomplished a feat few basketball coaches accomplish at any level. He earned his 500th career victory against Bronte's rival, Robert Lee. Even more impressive is the fact that Coach Rawls has won all 500 games at one school. Bronte has been his home his entire coaching career.

This past season, Coach Rawls helped the Bronte Longhorns go 25–3 and finish the season ranked sixth in the state, also sweeping eventual state champion Roscoe throughout the season. Subsequently, Coach Rawls was deservedly named Coach of the Year by the San Angelo Standard Times.

Coach Rawls and his wife, Terri, have 3 sons. Logan, a student at Angelo State University, and twins Dakota and Kerwin, now juniors at Bronte High School, have all played ball for their dad. Bronte has been the home of a long and successful career for Coach Rocky Rawls, who after winning 500 ballgames I hear thinks it just might be a great place to stay and win 500 more. Asked when he might retire, Coach Rawls has joked that "not until they ask me to coach girls," which after also stepping in as head football and boys track coach at various times, happens to be the only thing he hasn't coached at Bronte.

Coach Rawls has instilled invaluable leadership skills in the many students who have called him "Coach." He has incorporated the important values of self-discipline and perseverance into every practice, and ensured that the beliefs and conduct they learn on the court becomes a part of their daily lives as well. By example, Coach Rawls has instilled the importance of faith, family and community in the many lives he has touched throughout his years in Bronte. It is my great pleasure to extend my personal congratulations to Coach Rawls on his remarkable achievement of 500 victories, as well as express my sincere respect and appreciation for the positive impact he has had on the lives of many of the boys from Bronte, Texas. As an educator and a coach, he has had a hand in molding so many of them into men we can all be proud of.

Madam Speaker, I myself, as a former athlete in both high school and college recognize that we owe men and women like Rocky Rawls a great debt of gratitude. On behalf of current, former and future student athletes, whose lives will forever be founded in the ideals and work ethics of competitive athletics, I say, "Thank you."

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, an observance of the culture, traditions and contributions of the Hispanic community.

Started over 40 years ago, this month-long celebration from September 15 through October 15, observes social, political, and cultural advances of Americans descending from Spain, Mexico, South America, the Caribbean and Spanish-speaking countries of Central America. As the largest ethnic or race minority in the United States, people of Hispanic origin have made great strides to become among our nations finest medical professionals, legal scholars, scientists, business owners, civic leaders, artists, educators, and students. The year 2009 will be remembered as a historic year for many reasons, including the appointment of the first Hispanic to the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

As a Representative of an area with a large Hispanic population, I recognize that the influences of this culture are interwoven into the fabric of our nation. The establishment of Hispanic Heritage Month was a catalyst for the founding of many important organizations promoting development and advancement for the Hispanic community, including the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. This month presents an opportunity to remind the country of the achievements we are capable of as a diverse nation and an opportunity to show our youth their potential. As the fastest growing demographic group, it is important to not only recall past accomplishments, but to look to the future as well.

Celebrations will be held across the United States this month to recognize the contributions of the Hispanic community, and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Amount: \$500,000

Project: Florida Keys Wastewater Improvement Project

Requested by: City of Key West, City of Marathon, Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District

Federal funding of this project is needed to continue moving forward with the initiative outlined in The Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act, which authorized \$100 million